

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are in this case. Claims 1-6 and 10-12 have been rejected under § 102(e). Claims 7, 8 and 13-16 have been objected to. Claims 7, 9 and 13-16 have been canceled. Independent claim 1 and dependent claim 8 have been amended. New claims 17-21 have been added.

§ 102(e) Rejections – Risan et al. '945

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 10-12 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Risan et al., US Published Patent Application No. 2004/0236945. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed below, claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claim 7. It follows that claims 2-6 and 10-12, that depend from claim 1, also are allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 7, 8 and 13-16 as being based on rejected base claims. The Examiner has noted that claims 7, 8 and 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7. Correspondingly, claim 7 has been canceled and claim 8 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1.

Claims 13-16 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 17-20. Correspondingly, claims 13-16 have been canceled.

The Examiner did not indicate the status of claim 9. Because of the similarity of claim 9 to claim 7, Applicant has taken the liberty of assuming that the Examiner does not reject claim 9, but objects to claim 9 as being based on a rejected base claim. Therefore, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 21. Correspondingly, claim 9 has been canceled.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 17-21, and hence dependent claims 2-6, 8 and 10-12 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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